

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04Q 7/32, 7/38	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/26622 (43) International Publication Date: 18 June 1998 (18.06.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE97/02058 (22) International Filing Date: 9 December 1997 (09.12.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/764,688 11 December 1996 (11.12.96) US (71) Applicant: TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (publ) [SE/SE]; S-126 25 Stockholm (SE). (72) Inventor: LUONG, Albert; 7445 Debernieres, Montreal, Quebec H3R 2T2 (CA). (74) Agent: TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON; Patent och Trademark Dept., S-126 25 Stockholm (SE).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
(54) Title: MOBILE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS UPLINK MESSAGE TRANSMISSION OF BATTERY OUTPUT LEVEL INFORMATION (57) Abstract A mobile communications apparatus (10) monitors (26) the power level of its internal battery (24) power supply, and reports (46) the measured power information on a periodic basis to a serving network. These reports are preferably made during the course of an ongoing call communications utilizing an uplink communications channel (112). The reported power information is stored by the network. In response to a subsequent detection (142) of an instance of a call drop with respect to that mobile communications apparatus, the stored reported power information is retrieved (144) and processed (146) to determine whether failure of the battery for the mobile communications apparatus is a likely cause of the call drop. If such is the determination, that fact is noted (148) in association with recording the instance of the call drop as the drop cause.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Larvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia			SG	Singapore		

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS
UPLINK MESSAGE TRANSMISSION
OF BATTERY OUTPUT LEVEL INFORMATION

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a battery powered mobile communications apparatus and, in particular, to the monitoring of mobile communications apparatus measured
10 battery output levels for the purpose of identifying battery power failure as the cause of a communications call drop.

Description of Related Art

Within a cellular communications network, dropped
15 subscriber calls are an infrequent but still undesirable occurrence to be avoided if at all possible. Dropped calls may be caused by many factors such as poor signal/noise ratios, interference, poor handoff, and cellular telephone battery failure. Instances of dropped
20 cellular telephone calls are monitored and recorded by the serving cellular network switch. Unfortunately, in many cases, and especially in connection with battery power failure, the cause of the dropped call cannot be identified.

25 In some instances, the service provider financially penalizes the seller of the network infrastructure (switches, base stations, etc.) for instances of dropped calls because these drops adversely affect service provider revenue generation from network use. In those
30 cases where the drop is caused by circumstances to some degree under the control of the infrastructure seller (for example, poor cell planning), the penalty may be warranted. When the cause of the call drop is not, however, the result of the actions or omissions of the
35 infrastructure seller (for example, battery power failure in the mobile station), the imposition of the penalty is unfair.

-2-

There would be an advantage then if not only the existence of a call drop but also its cause were logged for information sake as well as for review in connection with the imposition of penalties on network infrastructure sellers. In particular, there is a need to identify and note instances where mobile station battery power level failure causes a call drop.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To address the foregoing need, a mobile communications apparatus monitors the power level of its internal battery power supply. The measured power levels are then reported to and stored by the base station or switching node of a serving network. If an ongoing call should then be dropped, the stored power levels reported by the mobile communications apparatus engaged in the dropped call are retrieved. Processing of the retrieved reported power levels is then made to determine whether failure of the battery for the mobile communications apparatus is a likely cause of the call drop. If such is the determination, an appropriate cause notation is made in association with recording the instance of the call drop.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the method and apparatus of the present invention may be acquired by reference to the following Detailed Description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram of a battery powered mobile communications apparatus;

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram of a portion of a control circuit for the battery powered mobile communications apparatus of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the operation of the battery powered mobile communications apparatus of

-3-

FIGURE 1 in monitoring battery power levels and reporting the monitored levels on a communications uplink;

FIGURE 4 is a block diagram of a mobile communications system wherein monitored battery power levels of the battery powered mobile communications apparatus are reported and analyzed in connection with the determination of a cause for call drops; and

FIGURE 5 is a flow diagram illustrating the operation of the mobile communications system of FIGURE 4 in processing communications uplink reported battery power levels to identify battery failure as the cause of a call drop.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Reference is now made to FIGURE 1 wherein there is shown a block diagram of a battery powered mobile communications apparatus 10. The apparatus 10 includes a transmitter 12 and a receiver 14. A frequency synthesizer 16 supplies a local oscillation signal to the transmitter 12 and receiver 14, which are coupled to an antenna 18 through a duplexer 20. The control over the operation of the transmitter 12 and receiver 14, as well as the selection of the local oscillation signal output by the frequency synthesizer 16, is provided by a control circuit 22. A rechargeable battery 24 supplies operating power to transmitter 12, receiver 14, frequency synthesizer 16, and control circuit 22.

Reference is now made to FIGURE 2 wherein there is shown a block diagram of a portion of the control circuit 22 for the battery powered mobile communications apparatus 10 of FIGURE 1. The control circuit 22 includes a battery power level monitoring circuit 26 connected to receive the supplied operating power output from the rechargeable battery 24. The battery power level monitoring circuit 26 measures the output power level and processes the measured power level to identify the current charge state of the rechargeable battery 24. The control circuit 22

-4-

further includes a central processing unit 28 which controls the operation of the transmitter 12 and receiver 14, as well as the selection of the local oscillation signal output by the frequency synthesizer 16.

5 The current charge state of the rechargeable battery 24 as determined by the battery power level monitoring circuit 26 is visually reported to a user of the mobile communications apparatus 10 through a visual indicator 30 comprising, for example, a light emitting diode (LED) which flashes under control of the monitoring circuit 24 when the measured power level falls below a given threshold. Furthermore, a signal indicative of the current charge state (and in particular the battery power level) of the rechargeable battery 24 is output by the
10 battery power level monitoring circuit 26 on line 32 to the central processing unit 28. During the course of an ongoing call, and further on a periodic basis with respect thereto, the central processing unit 28 controls the operation of the transmitter 12 to send on a
15 communications uplink information relating to the measured power level of the rechargeable battery 24.

Reference is now additionally made to FIGURE 3 wherein there is shown a flow diagram illustrating the operation of the battery powered mobile communications apparatus 10 of FIGURE 1 in monitoring battery power levels and reporting the monitored levels on the communications uplink. In steps 38 and 40, the battery power level monitoring circuit 26 measures the power level of the output operating voltage and processes the measured
25 power level to identify the current charge state of the rechargeable battery 24. The charge state is processed by the battery power level monitoring circuit 26 in step 42 to determine whether a low battery condition exists. Such is generally the case if the measured power level has
30 fallen below the given threshold. If so, a visual indication of a low battery level is provided to the user in step 44. The power level of the rechargeable battery

-5-

24, whether above or below the threshold, is then reported in step 46 by the battery power level monitoring circuit 26 to the central processing unit 28. A determination is then made in step 48 as to whether the mobile communications apparatus 10 is currently engaged in a call. If so (flow 50), and further on a periodic basis with respect thereto, the central processing unit 28 effectuates the transmission in step 52 on a communications uplink of certain information relating to the measured battery power level of the rechargeable battery 24. This information comprises, for example, battery level data (x volts), or a battery level indication (high, medium, low).

Reference is now additionally made to FIGURE 4 wherein there is shown a block diagram of a mobile communications system 100 wherein monitored battery power levels of battery powered mobile communications apparatus 10 are reported and analyzed in connection with the determination of a cause for call drops. The communications system 100 includes a mobile switching center (MSC) 102 controlling the provision of cellular telephone service within a particular service area. Each service area includes a plurality of cells 106 (only two shown for simplification of the illustration), wherein each cell includes at least one base station (BS) 108 for effectuating radio frequency communications with proximately located mobile communications apparatus 10 over an air interface 110. The base stations 108 are connected for communications with the mobile switching center 102 for the service area within which the cells 106 for those base stations are located. The mobile communications system 100 may comprise a Global System for Mobile (GSM) communications, a digital Advanced Mobile Phone System (D-AMPS), a code division multiple access (CDMA) system, a Personal Communications Services (PCS) network, or the like. The general operation of the mobile communications system 100 like that shown in FIGURE 4 to

-6-

support mobile communications apparatus 10 voice and data communications services is well known to those skilled in the art, and will not be described in detail herein.

As previously discussed, the mobile communications apparatus 10 operates to monitor its battery power level and to report, on a periodic basis during the course of an ongoing call, the monitored battery level information. This report is made on an uplink communications channel 112 of the air interface 110. Any known uplink communications signal could be modified to include a parameter containing the battery level information (again comprising, for example, level data or level indication). Alternatively, an existing parameter in an existing signal could be reassigned to contain the information. Still further, a new signal message could be specified for communicating the information.

In a first embodiment, responsive to receipt of the uplink communicated battery power level information for the mobile communications apparatus 10, the base station 108 forwards the information on to the mobile switching center 102 for further processing when needed in connection with the determination of a cause for call drops. In particular, the mobile switching center 102 maintains a record 114 of instances of call drops. This record 114 further identifies, when known, a cause for each such call drop. With respect to each ongoing call, the mobile switching center 102 further maintains a record 116 of the uplink communicated battery power level information for the mobile communications apparatus 10 engaging in that call. To minimize the amount of data storage space needed for the record 116, and considering the number of mobile communications apparatus 10 for which the information needs to be stored, only the last five (for example) uplink communicated battery power data points are stored. In the event that the call is then inadvertently dropped, a processor (CPU) 118 reads the corresponding mobile communications apparatus 10 uplink

-7-

communicated battery power level information from the record 116. This information is then evaluated by the processor 118 to determine whether failure of the battery for the mobile communications apparatus 10 is a likely cause of the call drop. If such a determination is made by the processor 118 from an analysis of the reported battery power level measurements, the processor notes in the record 114 (in association with the record of the call drop) that the cause of the call drop is mobile communications apparatus 10 battery failure.

In a second embodiment, the processor (CPU) 118' is maintained in the base station 108 along with the record 116' of the uplink communicated battery power level information for the mobile communications apparatus 10. Responsive to receipt of the uplink communicated battery power level information for the mobile communications apparatus 10, the base station 108 stores the uplink communicated battery power level information in the record 116'. To minimize the amount of data storage space needed for the record 116', and considering the number of mobile communications apparatus 10 for which the information needs to be stored, only the last five (for example) uplink communicated battery power data points are stored. In the event that the call is then inadvertently dropped, the processor (CPU) 118' reads the corresponding mobile communications apparatus 10 uplink communicated battery power level information from the record 116'. This information is then evaluated by the processor 118' to determine whether failure of the battery for the mobile communications apparatus 10 is a likely cause of the call drop. If such a determination is made by the processor 118' from an analysis of the reported battery power level measurements, the processor forwards this information on to the mobile switching center 102. The processor (CPU) 118 therein then notes in the record 114 (in association with the record of the call drop) that the cause of the

-8-

call drop is mobile communications apparatus 10 battery failure.

Typically, if the mobile communications apparatus 10 uplink communicated battery power level information stored in the record 116 indicates that a number of reported battery power level measurements fall below the given threshold, the processor 118 infers, absent any other information to the contrary, that the cause of the call drop is mobile communications apparatus 10 battery failure. As a particular example, if three of the last five reported battery power level measurements stored in the record 116 fall below the given threshold, battery failure is assumed to be the cause of the call drop. Alternatively, as another particular example, if the last five reported battery power level measurements stored in the record 116 shown a continuing decrease in battery power level, with a measurement below the threshold, battery failure is assumed to be the cause of the call drop. Other battery power level measurement evaluation criteria, from which an inference of battery failure may be drawn, may of course be selected and implemented through appropriate programming of the processor 118. For example, indicator levels (low medium, high) could also be processed to determine battery failure. Thus, three or more consecutive "low" level reports could present an indication of battery failure.

Reference is now additionally made to FIGURE 5 wherein there is shown a flow diagram illustrating the operation of the mobile communications system 100 of FIGURE 4 in processing communications uplink 112 reported battery power levels to identify battery failure as the cause of a call drop. The process performed by the mobile communications apparatus 10 in making and reporting battery power level measurements has been described previously in connection with FIGURE 3, and thus will not be repeated herein. The received mobile communications apparatus 10 made and uplink transmitted battery power

-9-

level measurements are stored in step 140 (in either the base station or mobile switching center). An instance of a call drop is then detected in step 142. Responsive thereto, the stored battery power level measurements are
5 retrieved in step 144 (by either the base station or the mobile switching center). In step 146, the retrieved battery power level measurements are evaluated (by either the base station or the mobile switching center) to determine whether failure of the battery for the mobile
10 communications apparatus 10 is a likely cause of the call drop. If such is the determination, a notation is made in step 148, in association with recording the instance of the call drop, that the cause of the call drop is mobile communications apparatus 10 battery failure.

15 Although a preferred embodiment of the method and apparatus of the present invention has been illustrated in the accompanying Drawings and described in the foregoing Detailed Description, it will be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiment disclosed,
20 but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth and defined by the following claims.

-12-

apparatus the reason for the call drop being a battery failure.

9. The method as in claim 8 wherein the step of
5 processing comprises the steps of:

comparing the retrieved power levels to a threshold;
and

10 identifying the reason for the call drop as being a
battery failure if a majority of the power levels fall
below the threshold.

10. The method as in claim 8 wherein the step of
processing comprises the steps of:

15 comparing the retrieved power levels to a threshold;
determining whether the retrieved power levels
indicate a decrease in power level; and

20 identifying the reason for the call drop as being a
battery failure if the power levels are determined to be
decreasing and at least one power level falls below the
threshold.

11. A mobile communications system, comprising:

25 means for receiving from a mobile communications
apparatus signals indicative of monitored apparatus
battery power levels;

a first memory for storing the received battery power
levels;

means for detecting an instance of a call drop with
respect to that mobile communications apparatus;

30 a second memory for storing a record of the call
drop;

a processor responsive to the detection of the call
drop for retrieving and processing the stored battery
power levels to determine whether battery failure is a
35 likely cause of the call drop, and responsive thereto for
making a notation in the second memory in association with

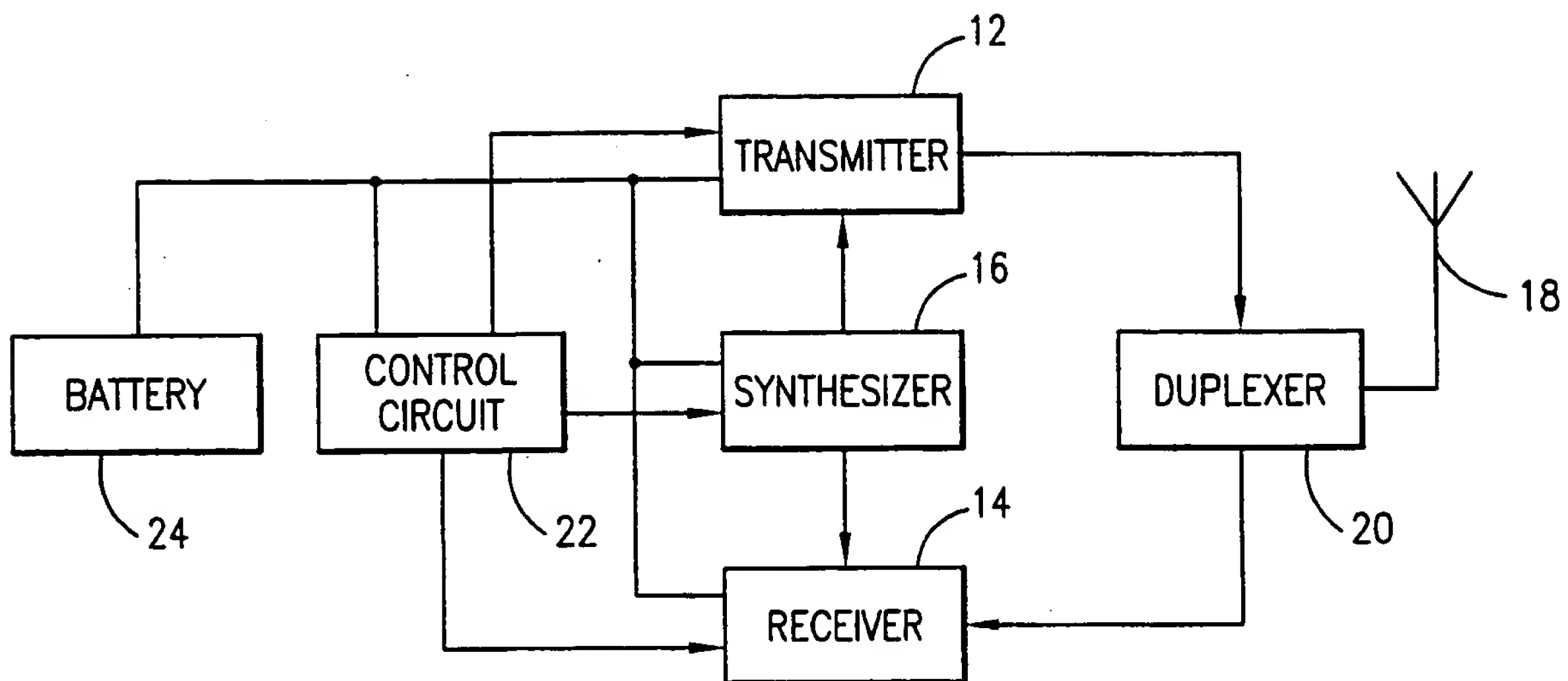
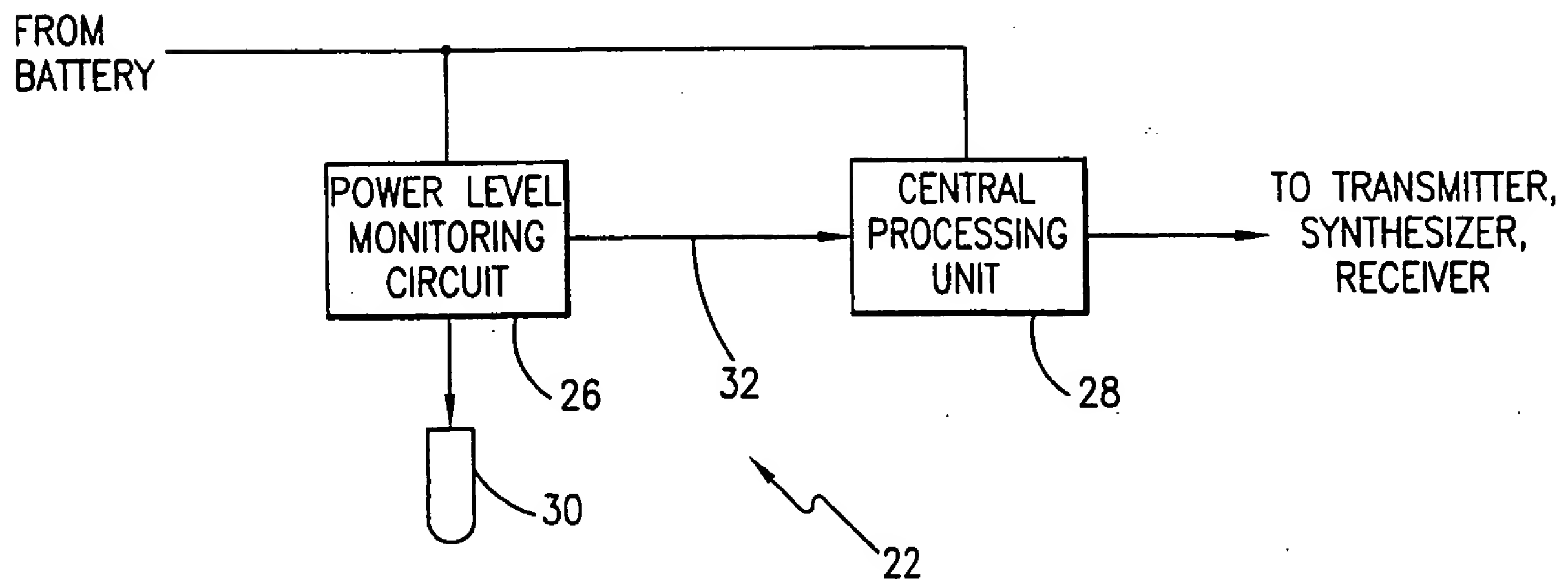
-13-

the record of the call drop the reason for the call drop being a battery failure.

5 12. The system as in claim 11 wherein the processing of the stored battery power levels compares the retrieved power levels to a threshold, and identifies the reason for the call drop as being a battery failure if a majority of the power levels fall below the threshold.

10 13. The system as in claim 11 wherein the processing of the stored battery power levels compares the retrieved power levels to a threshold, determines whether the retrieved power levels indicate a decrease in power level, and identifies the reason for the call drop as being a
15 battery failure if the power levels are determined to be decreasing and at least one power level falls below the threshold.

1/3

**FIG. 1****FIG. 2**

2/3

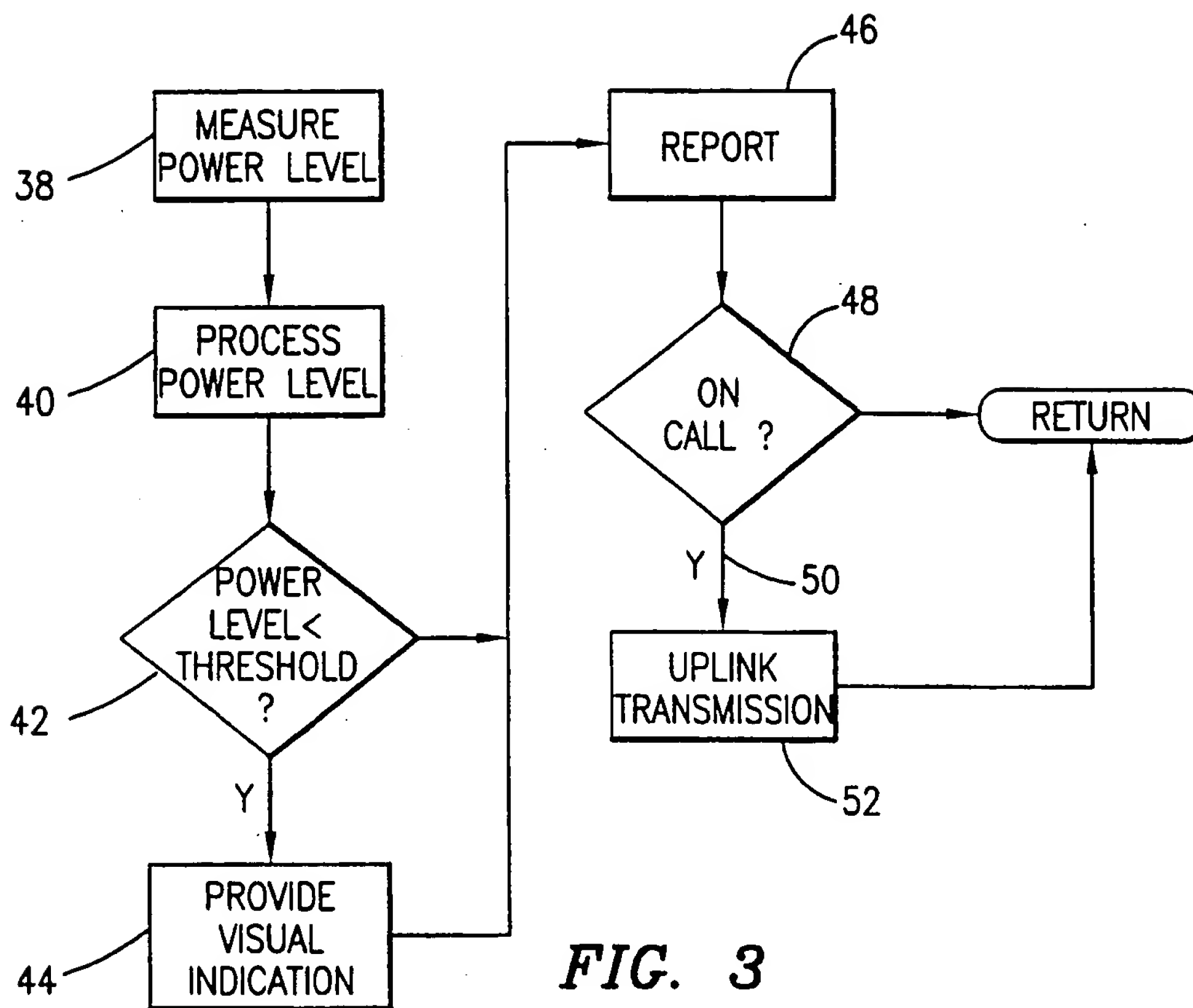


FIG. 3

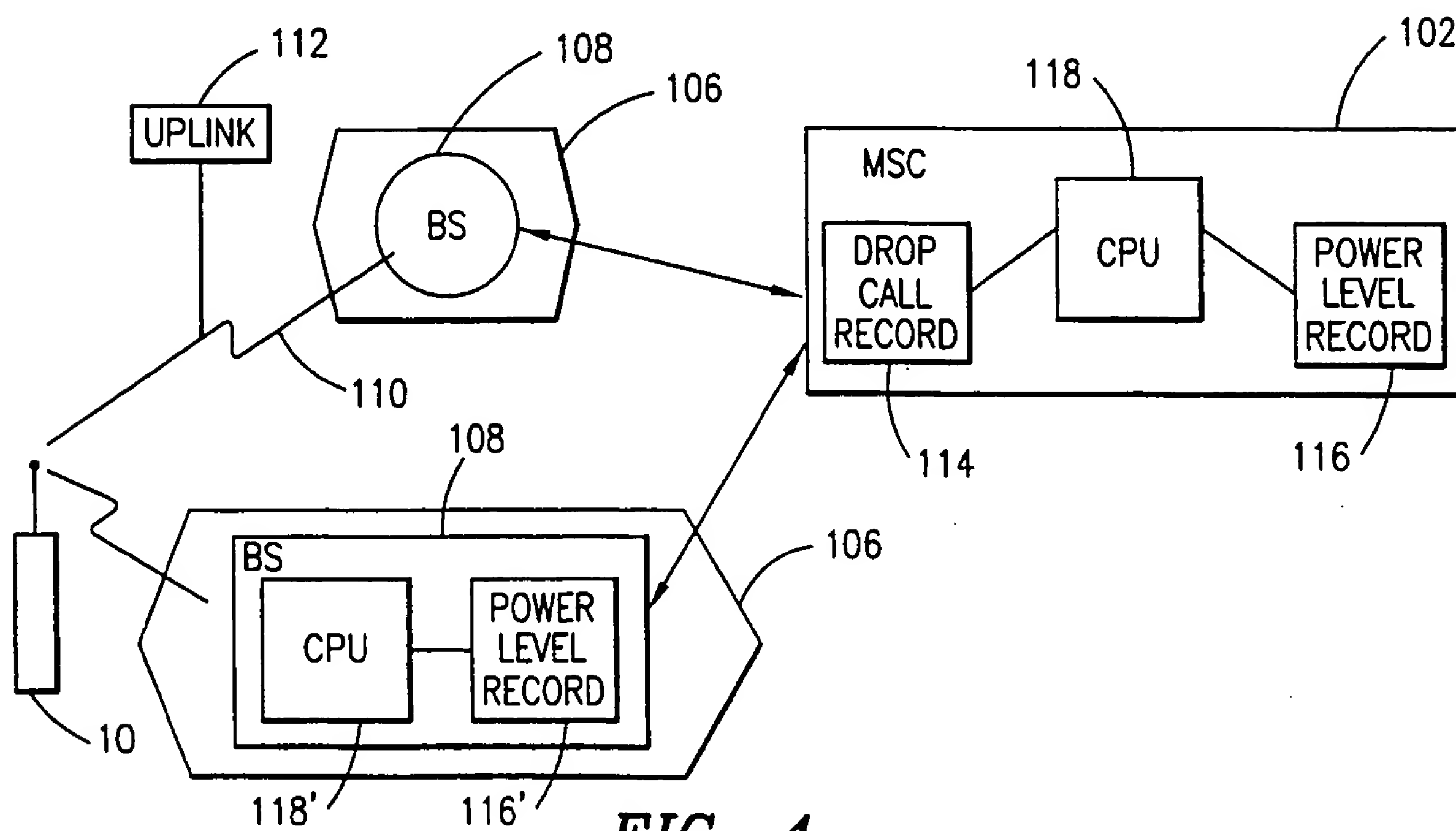


FIG. 4

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In. tional Application No

PCT/SE 97/02058

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H0407/32 H0407/38

According to International Patent Classification(IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H04Q H04M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 142 563 A (NYUU CHIKASHI ET AL) 25 August 1992	1-3,5,6
A	see column 3, line 55 - column 4, line 8 ---	11
X	WO 95 09512 A (NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY ;UOLA RISTO (FI)) 6 April 1995	1,3,5
A	see page 8, line 22 - page 11, line 7 ---	6,8,11
A	US 5 497 507 A (KOMAKI NORIO) 5 March 1996 see column 5, line 3 - column 13, line 49 -----	1-3



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 August 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/08/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P B 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Gautier, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/SE 97/02058

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5142563 A	25-08-1992	JP 2084328 C JP 3154550 A JP 7121023 B	23-08-1996 02-07-1991 20-12-1995
WO 9509512 A	06-04-1995	FI 934232 A AU 676611 B AU 7700694 A CN 1114851 A EP 0671111 A JP 8504071 T NO 952089 A US 5603095 A	28-03-1995 13-03-1997 18-04-1995 10-01-1996 13-09-1995 30-04-1996 26-07-1995 11-02-1997
US 5497507 A	05-03-1996	JP 2101062 C JP 5091017 A JP 8015267 B US 5392462 A	22-10-1996 09-04-1993 14-02-1996 21-02-1995